

During the past ten years Atlanta has experienced an economic growth rate that is rivaled by few American cities. To a large extent this was only possible because of an enlightened business and banking community. . . . the community that you gentlemen represent.

During this same ten year period Atlanta has also experienced a social development that is rivaled by few American cities. We can feel fortunate in that this has usually taken place in a peaceful and orderly fashion. This was only possible because of an enlightened black and white community that has grown with Atlanta.

We now live in a city where the population is almost 50% ~~black~~ *Negro*. The continued economic growth of our city will depend greatly on the means by which the heretofore untapped resources of our ~~black~~ *Negro* citizens can be utilized.

The Community Relations Commission has recently initiated a project of vital importance to all of us. It concerns the further development of ~~black~~ *Negro* entrepreneurship in Atlanta. The Commission, in developing this project, has as co-sponsors the Atlanta Business League's Project Outreach, *the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce,* the Atlanta Urban League, the National Alliance of Businessmen, the Small Business Administration, the Atlanta Chapter of the NAACP and the Atlanta University School of Business.

It is our hope that as part of Atlanta's
Atlanta needs a public commitment from you, its banking fraternity, that you will, to an ever increasing extent, *lend your expertise,* grant high risk loans to *business and banking knowledge, yes and even* competent black businessmen. *capital to competent Negro business people.*